

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

NEPA Number: AZ-420-2005-034 ADOT Safety Improvements on SR77

BLM Office: Tucson Field Office

Finding of No Significant Impact:

I have reviewed the environmental determination, #AZ-420-2005-034 ADOT Safety Improvements on SR77, including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the Safford District Resource Management Plan, dated September 1992.

Below are the substantive reasons for finding no significant impact:

- **The project will have no effect on any listed or candidate endangered plant or animal species.**
- **The project will have no adverse effect on any National Register eligible or listed historic properties.**
- **There will be no impact to any other critical elements or resources**
- **There will be no adverse energy impact.**

Attachments: Environmental Determination No. AZ-420-2005-034 ADOT Safety Improvements on SR77

Field Manager

Date

DECISION RECORD

EA Number: AZ-420-2005-034 ADOT Safety Improvements on SR77

BLM Office: Tucson Field Office

Decision:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead federal agency for this project. Following the MOU between BLM, FHWA, and ADOT, ADOT prepared this environmental documentation. BLM determined this document meets CEQ, DOI and BLM standards. BLM has also independently reviewed the document and concluded that it has addressed BLM concerns and suggestions. It is my decision to select the proposed action, which includes, improving two turnouts at MP141.4 and MP 144.6 along SR 77, just north of Winkelman, AZ. The improvements will be to provide more site distance for the public entering the state highway from the two BLM recreation sites along the Gila River. The project will also provide for wider turn outs on SR77 to enter the two recreation sites.

Alternatives Considered:

The only alternative to the proposed action that was considered in the environmental determination was the "No Action" alternative. This alternative was not considered as it would not meet the purpose and need of the project.

Rational for Decision:

The proposed action is specifically provided for in the Safford District RMP. The environmental determination analyzed the potential impacts to the environment and the public should the project proceed. A FONSI has been signed; therefore there are no significant impacts to the environment that would require an environmental impact statement. The decision was made after careful consultation with Federal Highways Administration, State Historic Preservation Office, interested public, the Arizona Department of Transportation and BLM staff members. By selecting the proposed action, the Tucson Field Office is implementing this portion of the Safford District RMP.

Mitigation Measures:

1. ADOT will notify the AZ Department of Agriculture at least 60 days prior to the start of construction so that the AZ Department of Agriculture can determine the disposition of the plants that can be salvaged.
2. All disturbed soils that will not be landscaped or otherwise permanently stabilized by construction will be seeded using species native to the project vicinity.
3. The Gila County floodplain administrator will be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the design plans.
4. During Phase IV of the final design, ADOT project manager will contact ADOT hazardous materials coordinator to determine the need for additional assessment.
5. ADOT will prepare a Storm water Pollution Prevention Plan and a monitoring plan.
6. ADOT will submit the Arizona pollutant discharge elimination system notice of intent and notice of termination to the Arizona DEQ.
7. All earthmoving equipment will be washed at the contractor's storage facility prior to entering the construction site to prevent the introduction of invasive weed seeds.
8. The contractor will post construction notification fliers at the Shores and Christmas recreation sites 10 days prior to construction and shall verify the continued posting of fliers at all posting locations on a monthly basis. Fliers shall also be posted at publicly owned buildings in Hayden and Winkelman. In addition, public news announcements shall be posted in the *Copper Basin News* to notify local residents of the impending closures.
9. The Christmas recreation site will be closed to public access seven days a week throughout the project construction. At the Shores recreation site, all construction activities shall occur during the workweek. No weekend construction activities shall occur at this location.
10. BLM will identify and mark off the stone retaining wall and the segments of the old highway within the project sites one week prior to construction.

Terms / Conditions / Stipulations: per 43CFR 10.4(g):

“All Federal authorizations to carry out land use activities on Federal lands or tribal lands, including all leases and permits, must include a requirement for the holder of the authorization to notify the appropriate Federal or tribal official immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony pursuant to Sec. 10.4(b) of these regulations.”

“There will be no adverse energy impact”.

Field Manager

Date

Attachments: Finding of No Significant Impact dated _____
Environmental Determination – AZ-420-2005-034